



## Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS) National Awards

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

### The IAQ TFS Awards Program

The U.S. EPA's *IAQ TFS* Awards Program was initiated in 2000 to recognize schools and school districts that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving children's health by promoting good indoor air quality (IAQ) practices. From schools and districts just beginning to implement IAQ management plans to those who have mature, sustainable, district-wide IAQ programs, EPA provides a series of national-level awards. As the stature of the awards increases, so does the value gained by each recipient through improved IAQ and the resulting improved health and performance of faculty, staff, and students.

### What Awards Does EPA Offer?

EPA offers four awards for which schools or districts may apply.

The **IAQ TFS National Great Start Award** is for U.S. schools and districts that are in the initial stages of implementing the *IAQ TFS* Program. To qualify, schools must establish an IAQ team or designate an IAQ Coordinator. Applications are accepted year round.

The **IAQ TFS National Leadership Award** is for U.S. schools and districts that have shown significant progress in implementing an IAQ management program. To qualify, schools must meet the minimum criteria for the Great Start Award and show progress toward completing IAQ walkthroughs or assessments for each school in the district that has agreed to participate in the program. Applicants must demonstrate how they are taking action to address IAQ issues and have identified and prioritized any IAQ repairs and upgrades. Applications are accepted year round.

The **IAQ TFS National Excellence Award** is one of EPA's highest IAQ awards, presented to U.S. school districts with exemplary IAQ programs that have shown exceptional commitment to IAQ management in schools. Recipients of the Excellence Awards are selected through a highly competitive process. These awards will be presented to the selected school districts at EPA's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *IAQ TFS* National Symposium, to be held in Washington, D.C., on December 4-6, 2008.

The **IAQ TFS National Model of Sustained Excellence Award** is presented to U.S. school districts that show ongoing exceptional commitment and achievement in maintaining healthy educational facilities while institutionalizing comprehensive IAQ management practices. Recipients of this award must have been a past National Excellence Award recipient and are selected through a highly competitive process. Applicants must demonstrate how they have sustained their IAQ practices, established IAQ management goals, and tracked short-term and long-term progress on IAQ management. These awards will be presented to the selected school districts at EPA's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *IAQ TFS* National Symposium, to be held in Washington, D.C., on December 4-6, 2008.

### How to Apply....

Visit [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/awards](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/awards) for award applications, instructions, and summaries of past award winners. Schools interested in applying for *IAQ TFS* awards should download and complete the appropriate application, making sure to include all requested materials. Applications for the **National Great Start** and **National Leadership** awards are accepted year round. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2008 **National Excellence** and **National Model of Sustained Excellence** awards is **September 12, 2008**.

### What is *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS)*?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS)* Kit to offer schools low-cost, practical, step-by-step approaches to identify, resolve, and prevent common IAQ problems. EPA has produced several resources to supplement the *IAQ TFS* Program to help schools enhance their IAQ management programs. The *IAQ TFS* program currently includes a national awards program, annual Symposium, Web calls, and the Envisioning Excellence suite of materials, all of which are based on best practices and current research. Visit the *IAQ TFS* Web site at [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools) for more information.

